

## **Planning and Policy Advisory Committee Update**

### **Written Report In lieu of meeting on 2/8/07**

#### **Court Security and Facilities**

Court security has been identified as a top priority in PPAC's biennial report titled *Critical Issues: Planning Priorities for the Wisconsin Court System*. This topic was discussed at length during the last PPAC meeting and the committee decided to establish a state level policy subcommittee with the purpose of addressing court security and the corresponding recommendations outlined in *Critical Issues*. These recommendations include revising/update SCR 70.39; courthouse security audits; courthouse security training; development of a comprehensive security plan; incident reporting and tracking; and extending outreach on this topic to educate those outside of the court system. The new subcommittee will research and discuss the feasibility of these proposals and make recommendations to PPAC on methods of action.

Since the last PPAC meeting, a Memo from the Chief Justice went out to all PPAC members, judges, court commissioners, and court staff to recruit appropriate membership. Ms. Slattengren is currently accepting these nominations and the Chief will make the final decision as to who will serve on this subcommittee. It is important to have some larger PPAC representation on this subcommittee, especially from members who currently do not serve on another subcommittee. Currently, only one PPAC member has expressed interest. PPAC representation is needed so if you have an interest and/or expertise in this topic, please contact Ms. Slattengren. The membership of the PPAC Court Security Subcommittee will be formally established by the May PPAC meeting and the subcommittee will have their first meeting date established.

#### **PPAC Planning Subcommittee**

The Planning Subcommittee met on November 17th. According to the timeline the Planning subcommittee established, this was the last meeting of the current biennial planning cycle and was therefore also Judge Sankovitz, Judge Nowakowski and Carolyn Olsen's last meeting as subcommittee members. The new replacement members; Judge Evenson, Judge Kremers and Sheila Reiff, were also invited to attend this meeting as part of the transition period. Judge Sankovitz congratulated Judge Kluka on being appointed the new subcommittee chair. The meeting was dedicated to evaluating the planning process and considering ways to refine it for the next biennium.

Ongoing assessment and updates on the "Critical Issues" report was a central part of the discussion at this meeting. Members considered possible ways solicit feedback and information in regard to the recommendations made in the Critical Issues Report and to hold the court system accountable for the objectives without becoming a "manager" of the plan. The upcoming planning cycle timeline and activities were also discussed. The primary focus on the next planning meeting (February 23) will be firming up the "progress report" process and discussing national trends, specifically the NCSC *Future Trends in State Courts* report that was recently published. Subcommittee members concluded the meeting by thanking and applauding Judge Sankovitz for his efforts as Planning Subcommittee Chair for two years.

#### **Effective Justice Strategies Subcommittee (formerly Alternatives to Incarceration)**

Since the November PPAC meeting, the EJS Subcommittee has made progress on two of its primary initiatives. On January 3, Judge Carl Ashley sent out a memo confirming the five counties who have agreed to serve as PPAC AIM pilot counties. They are: Marathon, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Portage, and Iowa. Over the next couple of months, the subcommittee will work with

the pilot counties to establish and finalize the common AIM data elements and method for data collection, and determine the best way to meet training and implementation needs for each pilot county. The other six counties who assisted in the development of AIM, but are unable to move forward at this time, will continue to receive updates and information on the status of the pilot counties with the hope that they will be able to implement AIM in the future. A meeting among the pilot counties is scheduled for late February to firm-up the implementation details.

The subcommittee also continues to work on collecting data about "alternative" programs that occurring in the courts throughout Wisconsin. In late November, the subcommittee distributed a survey to all Chief Judges and District Court Administrators in an attempt to inventory innovative practices and programs that occurring statewide and further develop the online resource that it created last year. The Chief Justice is also assisting in collecting this information through her 72 county tour. It is estimated that much of this will be posted online as a tool for judges within the next three to six months.

Lastly, the subcommittee held a session at the Judicial Conference on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The session, lead by Judges Carl Ashley and William Dyke, was titled "Alternatives to Incarceration: Setting the Foundation for Effective Justice Strategies." The primary topics included: a tutorial on how to locate the Alternatives to Incarceration online resource, the role and importance of criminal justice coordinating councils, and an overview of the AIM initiative. The breakout session generated a great deal of interest and was well attended.

The next meeting of the Effective Justice Strategies subcommittee will be on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

#### **Videoconferencing Subcommittee**

The Videoconferencing subcommittee continues to make progress in formulating recommendations for PPAC on legislative guidance for the use of videoconferencing in court processes. Judges McMonigal and Leineweber lead a breakout session at the Judicial Conference which outlined two approaches the subcommittee had been debating: the creation of a new statute, rule or legislation that provides broad discretion with a set of criteria or modification of the current statutes related to videoconferencing. Through these sessions, the subcommittee received some necessary feedback in order to formulate its future recommendations.

The subcommittee met on January 25<sup>th</sup> to review a proposal drafted by Judge Leineweber based on the subcommittee's research and the feedback it received from judges at the Judicial Conference. Judges McMonigal and Leineweber anticipate presenting final recommendations from the subcommittee to PPAC at the May 2007 meeting. The next and potentially final meeting of the videoconferencing subcommittee is scheduled for March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

#### **Legislative Update**

The following documents have been provided by Ms. Rottier to PPAC members in regard to the legislative update:

- 1) Directories of State Senate and State Assembly members, including office and telephone numbers.
- 2) A listing of the members of the legislative committees most likely to deal with court issues and budget.
- 3) A calendar of the 2007-08 biennial session schedule.

#### **Budget Update**

**Future PPAC meeting schedule**

Thursday, May 3 2007: Wisconsin State Bar Center

Thursday, August

Thursday, November

For questions or comments on any of the information provided in this report, please contact Erin Slattengren at (608)-266-8861 or [erin.slattengren@wicourts.gov](mailto:erin.slattengren@wicourts.gov)